

Alaska Students Praise New Mexico Art Center

Eighteen talented Alaska native students are studying art at the Institute of American Indian Arts at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The Alaskans are among 73 boys and 60 girls, or a total of 133 students, representing 19 states and 74 tribes.

Without doubt, it is the most unusual group of native youth ever assembled.

The institute just came into being last year and many new buildings, such as a new academic building and several art studios, have not been completed. Classes were started this fall in temporary buildings.

Recently the 18 Alaska art students were interviewed for Tundra Times by George A. Boyce, school superintendent.

Clark's Point

"I like it here," said Alexandra Backford, Aleut-Eskimo daughter of Constantine and Anna Backford, of Nushagak, Clark's Point.

Enrolled in the 12th grade, Alexandra wants to strengthen her grades and aims at going to college to study fine arts and possibly teaching.

Haines

"I think it's wonderful, more than I expected," said Athabascan William Blackmore, a member of the Chilkat dance group, from Haines, Alaska.

Enrolled as a special student taking arts and business principles, Blackmore's benefactor is Mrs. Ruth Donnelly, of Haines.

Tunanak

"I like it fine, am taking music, painting and academic work," said 20-year-old Joseph Chikoyak, Eskimo, son of Adeline Chikoyak, Tunanak. He is enrolled as a special student.

Kotzebue

Bertha Clark, Eskimo, daughter of Charlie and Pauline Clark, Kotzebue, took mostly business courses at Mount Edgecumbe. She really would like to train for clerical work.

The Art Institute emphasizes general academic education combined with arts.

She feels it would be wise to apply through relocation for transfer for entrance into a commercial school in California. At first she did feel homesick at Santa Fe, but is ready now to stick it out and hopes she can get into commercial training.

Red Devil

"I like it very much. I think it is one of the finest schools I have ever seen," said Richard Fredericks, son of Mrs. Martha Donlon, Red Devil.

A special student, Richard is taking business principles, typing, English, textiles, ceramic sculpture, general design, Indian Aesthetics and exploration of other arts.

Haines

"I'm very pleased with the Institute. It is a great opportunity for me. My major interest is music," said Carl W. Heinmiller, Haines, Alaska.

A high school graduate, Heinmiller is very serious about a career in music. In addition to music, he is taking jewelry, performing arts, orchestra, band, creative writing, and piano.

He has become a participating member in percussions in the Santa Fe Symphony orchestra. Later he may take some evening courses at St. Michael's College but also wants to practice on his music every night.

Recently Heinmiller took a college English test and did very well on it.

"I'm very pleased with the Institute and have no special problems," said Ronald Martin, son of Isabel L. Katzeck, of Haines.

Ronald plans a career in Alaska, including guide work, fish and game

protection, woodcarving and related arts.

Nome

"I like the school," said Lucy Ann Mezenna, whose aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Angusue, live in Nome.

She is taking piano, orchestra, weaving, painting, jewelry, required art courses in design, orientation and Indian art backgrounds.

Lucy plans to return to Alaska and settle down there.

Kotzebue

Charlie Mills, son of Leroy and Annie Mills, Kotzebue, feels the Institute is a good school but that he thinks he would rather go to a business school.

"I like the school. Mostly I like jewelry and typing. Also I take English, music, design, and art orientation," said Jerry Norton, son of Daniel S. Norton, of Kivalina. He is enrolled as a special student.

Hooper Bay

"I like this place and I'm getting along real well with my friends and the school staff. I don't want my parents to worry about me," said Irene Simon, daughter of Mike and Aldine Simon, of Hooper Bay.

Irene is taking American history, business arithmetic, English, design, art orientation, jewelry and ceramics.

Juneau

"I think the Institute is a fine school for painting, sculpture and arts like that. But I had hoped to get more courses in advanced music than is offered this year, because I already had a lot of music," said Georgena Paddock, daughter of Mrs. Bessie Paddock, Juneau.

"I find the emphasis is largely on Indian traditions in art and music," she added.

Klawock

"It is like I expected, but I don't like the mountains," said Corrine Peratrovich, daughter of Francis and Eleanor Peratrovich, Klawock. Corrine is in the eleventh grade.

Anchorage

"I think this is a good school for those who like art. It is pretty far away from home. I would like to see some snow," said Marie Mae Pederson, daughter of Mrs. Helen Adams, Anchorage, and granddaughter of Mrs. Beda Adams Koyuk.

Enrolled in the twelfth grade, she takes English, American Government, art exploration, Indian arts home economics, ceramics, chorus musical theory and art design.

Haines

"The basic idea of the Institute is something I have always wanted. I feel that the democratic relationship between the students and staff will really make this school if anything will," said Walter Porter, of Haines.

Porter is a post graduate student and member of the Chilkat Dancers. He wants to go into performing arts, and is taking this subject along with freshman English at St. Michael's College, algebra, business principles, chorus, band, art design, Indian arts, and jewelry.

"I like the school; I like the climate; my biggest problem is reading out loud," said Porter.

"I like the way the dormitory life is set up here. When the new buildings are finished next month, it should be real nice here," said 17-year-old Clifford Thomas, son of Mrs. Margaret V. Thomas, of Haines.

Clifford is taking world history, biology, English, jewelry, ceramics, art design, art exploration and Indian Arts background.

Juneau

"I don't have any complaints," said 19-year-old Victor Ward, son of Mrs. Harold Westman, E-2 Cedar Park, Juneau.

Victor is taking English, business mathematics, ceramics, jewelry, art design, art exploration, sculpture, Indian arts background.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Missoula, Montana
October 20, 1962
Dear editor:

I have recently received a copy of the first "Tundra Times" and was very much impressed with the paper. The quality of the articles seemed very fine and the whole setup of the paper was impressive. Even to me who have never been to Alaska it was most interesting.

I am enclosing a check for \$6.00 for a year's subscription to the paper, regular mail, and with it goes hopes for continued success and increasing growth.

Sincerely yours,
Hope E. Sladish

Bothell, Washington
October 26, 1962
Dear Editor:

I was introduced to Volume 1, No. 1 of your newspaper, Tundra Times, and not only want to wish you well on your project and its long success, but would like to subscribe to it for a year starting with No. 2 of volume 1 — second issue. Enclosed please find a check for \$6.00.

I am also enclosing a copy of a paper which I read at the Thirtieth Alaskan Science Conference in August and which you probably already have seen. I thought you might be interested in an anthropologist's views of issues which are of great importance in Alaska today. This small paper resulted from a much larger study which I am making.

Because very few persons are aware of the anthropologists' role in the claims cases and the procedure of obtaining supporting evidence I hoped that this paper would bring some of the facts before the public.

Sincerely yours,
(Mrs.) Dorothy Jean Ray

Norwich, Vermont
October 8, 1962
Dear Editor:

Heartily congratulations to you and your associates on a fine first issue of Tundra Times. We hope you will start our subscription with issue No. 1, and we enclose a check for \$6.00.

A paper such as yours has a great future. It will benefit not only white and native Alaskans, but it will be of great interest to all persons concerned with the development of Alaska.

I should be delighted to send sample copies of the paper to a number of my friends, many of whom will want to subscribe to it. Could you send me a dozen or so copies of any issue for this purpose?

Yours cordially,
Alan Cooke

Cambridge, Mass.
November 1, 1962
Dear Editor:

I have seen the first issue of the Times and think it is excellent. You're to be congratulated, and I wish you the best of luck in your undertaking.

Sincerely yours,
Jean L. Briggs

Teller, Alaska
October 20, 1962
Dear Editor:

Thank you for the two courtesy copies of "Tundra Times". I am delighted and plan to file every issue so I am enclosing my check in the amount of \$5.00 to help keep your publication alive. To me, your publication is in fact a genuine milestone in the advancement of our people. I say our people as I am part Indian.

Your editorial under the caption "Vocational Schools" was excellent and very well put. The late Senator William E. Beltz, President of the Senate, Alaska State Legislature worked tirelessly in an effort to establish vocational schools throughout the state and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with him in this effort. Actually the results of our efforts are bearing fruit. The first State Vocational School Bond Issue of \$1.5 was approved by the voters of Alaska and this new school which in fact is a Pilot School is being constructed at Nome, Alaska. The land has been acquired, the soil has been tested for the building foundations and the water well for the school is being drilled. Architects are at work on the final plans and it is anticipated that the construction of the building will begin in the summer of 63.

The Vocational School at Nome will need Federal Aid and such aid is justifiable. Certainly far more justifiable than "Foreign Aid" which I have never advocated. Our Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall recently made a public statement in Juneau that the State Vocational School at Nome would receive substantial financial aid soon.

Fraternally,
Robert R. Blodgett

NAVIGATION HAZARD

WRANGELL—Capt. Casey Moran of the Alaska Pilot Service has asked that persons in the Wrangell area be careful when they come to the Wrangell wharf to watch the ships come in.

According to Capt. Moran, some drivers on the dock turn on their car lights which blind the pilots as they come in on strong running tides.

Native Students At University Form Theata Club

By CHARLES O. DEGNAN
Student, University of Alaska

The Theata Club was organized on the University of Alaska campus last September by the Alaska Native Students. Although the club was organized in September, the name was chosen this November.

The name **Theata** was chosen by the group and originated by taking the first letter of the names of the native tribes of Alaska—Tlingit, Haida, Eskimo, Athabascan, Tsimpsian, and Aleut.

The members of the club felt that this name is appropriate because all the tribes are represented in the club.

The primary function of the club is to promote education in Alaska, especially among the Alaskan natives; preserve the native culture, lore, arts and crafts.

The Theata Club is now in the process of raising funds to send one of its members on a trip for educational purposes or may use the funds as they see fit.

The officers of the club are: president, Charles O. Degnan; vice president, James Adams; secretary, Daphne Rylander; treasurer, Martha Mack; sergeant at arms, Richard Lopez. Executive committee members, Melvin and Pete Rymes.

Those eligible for membership are all Alaska native students at the University of Alaska and any student attending the university who is interested in the goals of the club.

Letter to Editor

Fairbanks, Alaska
November 1, 1962
Dear editor:

I wanted you to know that I appreciate the editorial on discrimination against whites in the outlying areas. Believe we discussed this after the Udall dinner. Feel that coming from you people that this injustice may be rectified in years to come. Unfortunately, as you know, so many things move slowly.

Think the two issues which I've seen are very worthwhile and interesting.

Enclosed is a check for our subscription. My husband and I wish the paper continued success.

Sincerely,
Mary Elizabeth Lomes

The first production of coal in Alaska is said to have been at Kachemak Bay in 1896 when 15,232 tons were mined.

Subscribe to JESSEN'S WEEKLY

Alaska's Largest
The All Alaska Weekly
\$9.00 by Mail
Box 970, Fairbanks
Pioneer Job Printers



SUBSCRIBE NOW

Please enter my subscription to the Tundra Times:

Within Alaska, regular mail

☐ 6 months, \$2.50

☐ 1 year, \$5.00

To other states

☐ 6 months, \$3.00

☐ 1 year, \$6.00

Air mail to states

☐ 6 months, \$6.00

☐ 1 year, \$12.00

Mail to _____

Address _____

Ordered by _____

Address _____

Send with cash, check or money order to:
Tundra Times, Box 970, Fairbanks, Alaska